
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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IRON ORE IN JUNE 1997

U.S. mine production of iron ore in June 1997 was 3.7% lower than that of May 1997, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments decreased by 12.6% and mine stocks

decreased by 4.9%. Consumption and trade data for June 1997 will be included in a subsequent report.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE, BY DISTRICTS 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Lake Superior		Other U.S.		Total 2/	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
Production:						
1996:						
June	5,128	28,525	22	147	5,150	28,673
July	5,771	34,296	22	169	5,793	34,465
August	5,752	40,048	119	288	5,871	40,336
September	5,590	45,638	25	313	5,615	45,952
October	5,347	50,985	26	339	5,373	51,325
November	5,503	56,488	24	363	5,527	56,852
December	5,260	61,748	20	383	5,280	62,132
1997:						
January	4,773	4,773	16	16	4,788	4,788
February	4,719	9,492	25	40	4,744	9,532
March	5,149	14,641	27	67	5,176	14,708
April	4,720	19,361	25	92	4,745	19,453
May	5,412	24,773	24	116	5,436	24,889
June	5,215	29,988	21	137	5,237	30,126
Shipments:						
1996:						
June	5,925	24,567	17	116	5,942	24,684
July	6,396	30,963	29	145	6,424	31,108
August	6,230	37,193	29	174	6,259	37,367
September	6,341	43,534	29	203	6,370	43,737
October	6,232	49,766	23	226	6,256	49,993
November	5,674	55,440	31	257	5,705	55,698
December	6,036	61,476	19	276	6,055	61,753
1997:						
January	2,693	2,693	16	16	2,708	2,708
February	1,036	3,729	27	43	1,063	3,771
March	2,310	6,038	23	65	2,333	6,104
April	5,981	12,019	27	92	6,008	12,112
May	6,673	18,692	21	113	6,695	18,806
June	5,828	24,520	21	134	5,849	24,655

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN JUNE 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 2/		Stocks 3/	
	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1,302	1,273	1,335	1,507	3,332	1,994
Minnesota	3,913	3,855 r/	4,494	4,418 r/	6,788	6,258 r/
Other U.S.	21	22	21	17	109	135 r/
Total 4/	5,237	5,150 r/	5,849	5,942 r/	10,230	8,388 r/

r/ Revised.

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Includes rail and vessel.

3/ Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

4/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	Total 1/
1996:					
June	1,653	405	43	7	2,108
July	1,358	995	38	8	2,398
August	2,132	867	40	6	3,045
September	2,755	906	58	8	3,726
October	2,400	1,551	114	9	4,074
November	2,620	1,165	111	8	3,905
December	2,056	1,145	111	8	3,320
Year total	19,959	12,059	733	88	32,839
1997:					
January	924	639	114	8	1,685
February	568	1,045	100	11	1,723
March	293	712	87	8	1,099
April	2,282	889	42	7	3,219
May	2,188	1,182	41	8	3,419
June	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES AND
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption of ores and agglomerates				
Consumption by source	May		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
United States ores	4,778	5,140	23,861	23,768
Canadian ores	553	532	2,794	3,296
Foreign ores	585	726	2,866	3,519
Total 1/	5,916	6,399	29,521	30,583
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,386	5,880	26,674	27,686
Steel furnaces	9	8	42	33
Agglomerating plants 2/	521	508	2,768	2,859
Miscellaneous 3/	--	3	39	6
Total 1/	5,916	6,399	29,521	30,583
Stocks of ores and agglomerates				
Storage point	May 31			
	1997	1996		
Furnace yards	12,477	12,477 r/		
Receiving/transfer docks	1,759	1,769		
Total consumer	14,236	14,246 r/		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
	May		Year to date	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	4,255	4,135	20,433	20,985
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	37	38	XX	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine site.

3/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES, BY COUNTRY
OF DESTINATION AND TYPE

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	1996		1997			
	3rd quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	March	April	May
Canada	2,391	1,729	470	166	339	749
Mexico	2	1	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Other	2	1	1	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Total 2/	2,394	1,731	472	166	339	750
Pellets	2,380	1,723	470	165	337	746
Other	14	8	2	1	2	4
Total 2/	2,394	1,731	472	166	339	750

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES,
BY COUNTRY AND TYPE
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	May 1997		Year to date 1997			Year to date 1996 (thousand metric tons)
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	
Australia	--	--	269	2,493	9.27	312
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	--	125
Brazil	632	13,991	2,082	54,164	26.02	1,818
Canada	882	29,188	2,564	85,666	33.41	2,505
Chile	114	2,671	126	2,846	22.59	39
China	(2/)	4	40	1,447	36.18	--
Finland	--	--	4	183	45.75	3
Mauritania	--	--	--	--	--	133
Mexico	2	26	9	153	17.00	(2/)
Peru	--	--	130	1,487	11.44	43
South Africa	--	--	4	389	97.25	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	11
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	--	24
Venezuela	234	9,314	839	34,535	41.16	1,038
Zaire	(2/)	1	(2/)	1	61.75	--
Total 3/	1,865	55,196	6,067	183,363	30.22 4/	6,052
Concentrates	212	3,744	266	4,708	17.70	159
Coarse ores	234	9,318	763	32,249	42.27	450
Fine ores	442	8,567	1,431	24,840	17.36	1,640
Pellets	928	32,253	3,321	115,020	34.63	3,617
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other agglomerates	48	1,313	281	6,361	22.64	183
Roasted pyrites	--	--	4	184	46.00	3
Total 3/	1,865	55,196	6,067	183,363	30.22 4/	6,052

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

4/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES IN MAY 1997
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total 1/
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	158	--	327	124	23	--	632
Canada	54	--	--	805	23	--	882
Chile	--	--	114	--	--	--	114
China	--	(2/)	--	--	--	--	(2/)
Mexico	--	--	--	--	2	--	2
Venezuela	--	234	--	--	--	--	234
Zaire	(2/)	--	--	--	--	--	(2/)
Total 1/	212	234	442	928	48	--	1,865

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY

Country of origin	May 1997		Year to date 1997			Year to date 1996
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	(thousand metric tons)
Brazil	124	4,468	768	27,601	35.94	690
Canada	805	27,785	2,433	83,299	34.24	2,313
Venezuela	--	--	120	4,121	34.34	613
Total 2/	928	32,253	3,321	115,020	34.63 3/	3,617

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND
AGGLOMERATES, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	May	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	403	1,583	1,680
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	--	(1/)
Charleston, SC (16)	23	257	219
Chicago, IL (39)	318	480	508
Cleveland, OH (41)	76	129	142
Detroit, MI (38)	220	531	448
Duluth, MN (36)	--	--	51
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	--	21
Los Angeles, CA (27)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Mobile, AL (19)	501	1,719	1,471
New Orleans, LA (20)	100	743	695
Nogales, AZ (26)	2	8	(1/)
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	221	616	804
Portland, ME (01)	--	--	(1/)
San Juan, PR (49)	--	--	11
Savannah, GA (17)	(1/)	(1/)	--
Total 2/	1,865	6,067	6,052

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	May	Year to date	
	1997	1997	1996
Baltimore, MD (13)	146	566	654
Charleston, SC (16)	--	138	101
Chicago, IL (39)	106	213	375
Cleveland, OH (41)	53	106	118
Detroit, MI (38)	220	531	448
Duluth, MN (36)	--	--	51
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	--	13
Mobile, AL (19)	340	1,366	1,021
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	280	287
Philadelphia, PA (11)	62	121	550
Total 1/	928	3,321	3,617

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.